

REMARKS

In summary, claims 1-20 are pending. Figures 8-11, the specification (including the Abstract), and claims 9 and 17 were objected to. Claims 1-8, 10-16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, and claims 9 and 12 are allowable. By this amendment, a full set of substitute drawings is submitted, and the specification (including the Abstract) is amended. No claims are amended. No new matter is added.

Drawings

Figures 8-11 were objected to for being illegible. Substitute drawings 8-11 showing enlarged illustrations are submitted with this amendment. Therefore, it is requested that the objections to drawings 8-11 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Specification

The specification was objected to because the word "dielectric" is misspelled throughout. By this amendment, this typographical error is corrected. Thus, it is requested that the objections to the specification be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-8, 10-16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,394,853, issued to Hammond et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Hammond et al."). In support of the forgoing rejections, it is asserted in the Office Action, that Hammond et al. discloses a modular jack wherein certain end portions of the second terminal contacts are electrically connected to certain tail end portions of the first terminal contacts.

Hammond et al. neither discloses nor suggests "certain of said tail end portions of said second terminal contacts are electrically connected to certain of said tail end portions of said first terminal contacts" as recited in independent claim 1 and inherent in independent claim 13.

In contrast to teaching first terminal contacts electrically connected to second terminal

contacts, Hammond et al. teaches a data connector having signal contacts connected to an external multiconductor cable. "The data connector...securably receives at least two distinct types of mating connector plugs having different contact arrangements....The data connector further includes...a plurality of signal contacts...which are used to frictionally engage mating contacts in the plugs...In order to change the configuration of the signal contacts to accommodate different mating connectors, the...data connector includes a slidable switch device...for electrically connecting the signal contacts to the conductors of the multiconductor cable...". (Abstract) [Emphasis Added] This configuration is described in more detail in column 5, lines 1-9 of Hammond et al. "Referring further to FIGS. 1 and 2, a printed circuit board (PCB) 30 is positioned within housing 10 that includes a support surface 32 from which a plurality of signal contacts 35 longitudinally depend. Contacts 35 are electrically coupled to PCB 30 and are desirably arranged adjacent to one another in vertically spaced rows as shown so that each signal contact of a mating connector plug will have a corresponding signal contact 35 in electrical communication therewith." [Emphasis Added]

Claims 2-8 and 10-12 depend upon claim 1, and claims 14-16 and 18-20 depend upon claims 13, and therefore are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Hammond et al. for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 13.

Because Hammond et al. neither discloses nor suggests "certain of said tail end portions of said second terminal contacts are electrically connected to certain of said tail end portions of said first terminal contacts", it is requested that the rejection of claims 1-8, 10-16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge that claims 9 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the above presented remarks, it is requested that the objections to claims 9 and 17 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Prior Art Made Of Record

The Examiner considers the following prior art made of record and not relied upon pertinent to Applicants' disclosure: U.S. Patent Number 5,704,797, issued to Meyerhoefer et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Meyerhoefer et al."), U.S. Patent Number 5,971,813, issued to Kunz et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Kunz et al."), U.S. Patent Number 6,321,397, issued to de la Borbolla et al. (hereinafter referred to as "de la Borbolla et al."), and U.S. Patent Number 6,171,152, issued to Kunz. (hereinafter referred to as "Kunz"). In the Office Action, the foregoing references are characterized as disclosing modular jack connectors having housing terminal contacts and shields. It is respectfully submitted that Meyerhoefer et al., Kunz et al., de la Borbolla et al. and Kunz, whether considered separately or together, neither disclose nor suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow this application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

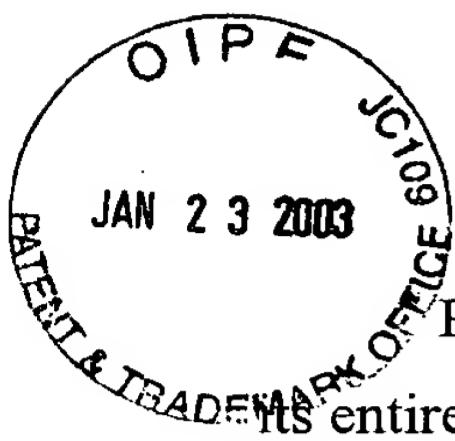
Respectfully,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please replace paragraph [0007] of the specification with the following paragraph in its entirety:

-- [0007] Referring now to FIG. 2 in addition to FIGS. 1A-1C, contained within ground shield 101 are a number of complimentary components including a [dielectric] dielectric housing 110, a shield insert 111, a circuit board sub-assembly 112, and a switching block 113. [Dielectric] Dielectric housing 110 is unitarily molded of [dielectric] dielectric material such as plastic or the like in a generally cube-shaped configuration. [Dielectric] Dielectric housing 110 defines plug receiving cavity 103 on its front face 114 and an insert receiving cavity 115 open on its rear face 116. Plug receiving cavity 103 and insert receiving cavity 115 are separated from each other in part by internal wall 120, formed at the same time as [dielectric] dielectric housing 110 from the same [dielectric] dielectric material, which extends from the inner surface of housing wall 123 to the inner surface of housing wall 124. Inner cavities 121 and 122 connect the upper and lower portions respectively of plug receiving cavity 103 and insert receiving cavity 115 to one another, and provide spaces through which the first 119 and second 117 walls of shield insert 111 pass during assembly. Dielectric Dielectric housing 110 is mounted in ground shield 101 by sliding housing 110 in the direction of arrow A. FIG. 6 depicts jack 100 after [dielectric] dielectric housing 110, together with the other complimentary components forming jack 100, is mounted in ground shield 101. --

Please replace paragraph [0008] of the specification with the following paragraph in its entirety:

-- [0008] Shield insert 111 is unitarily molded of [dielectric] dielectric material such as plastic or the like in a generally u-shaped configuration having three walls. The first 119 and

second 117 walls generally oppose each other and are joined together by the third wall 118 which is transversely oriented to the first 119 and second 118 walls. The outer surface of insert first wall 119 defines a sub-assembly receiving recess 125, and a switching block receiving cavity 127 is open between the inner and outer surfaces of insert third wall 118. Switching block 113 is unitarily molded of [dielectric] dielectric material such as plastic or the like and is slideably mounted in switching block receiving cavity 127 during assembly by inserting block 113 in the direction of arrow C. FIG. 3 depicts jack 100 after switching block 113 has been slideably mounted in switching block receiving cavity 127. Switching block 113 while slideably mounted in cavity 127 can move towards both the front and the rear of jack 100. --

Please replace paragraph [0013] of the specification with the following paragraph in its entirety:

-- [0013] During assembly, once terminal contacts 135 and 137 and switching contacts 136 are mounted to circuit board sub-assembly 112, the package of components are mounted in shield insert 111 assembly receiving recess 125 by moving the package of components in the direction of arrow D. FIG. 4 depicts jack 100 with circuit board sub-assembly 112 mounted in assembly receiving recess 125. Shield insert 111 is then mounted in insert receiving cavity 115 by moving shield insert 111 in the direction of arrow B. FIG. 5 depicts jack 100 with shield insert 111 mounted in insert receiving cavity 115 of [dielectric] dielectric housing 110. [Dielectric] dielectric housing 110 is then mounted in ground shield 101 by moving [dielectric] dielectric housing 110 in the direction of arrow A. FIG. 6 depicts jack 100 with [dielectric] dielectric housing mounted in ground shield 101. Finally, ground shield rear wall segments 139 and 140 are bent approximately ninety degrees to form mounting face 107 of ground shield 101. FIG. 7 depicts jack 100 in its final stage of assembly. --

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

-- A modular jack for receiving complimentary plugs. The jack comprises a ground shield, a [dielectric] dielectric housing, a shield insert, a switching block, a circuit board sub-assembly, a plurality of terminal contacts, and a plurality of switching contacts. The ground

shield has a plug receiving face that is open to expose a plug receiving cavity and is adapted to receive a complimentary plug. The ground shield also has a mounting face which defines grounding springs that extend inward towards the plurality of switching contacts. Portions of some of the terminal contacts extend in cantilever fashion into the plug receiving cavity while portions of some of the terminal contacts extend through the ground shield forming terminal posts. A number of the terminal contacts have contact switching pads upon which mating portions of the switching contacts rest. When a plug having a switching protrusion on its lower front surface is inserted in the plug receiving cavity, the switching block slides towards the ground shield mounting face lifting the mating portions of the switching contacts off the contact switching pads until they touch the ground springs extending from the ground shield mounting face. --